

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 April 2004 (15.04.2004)

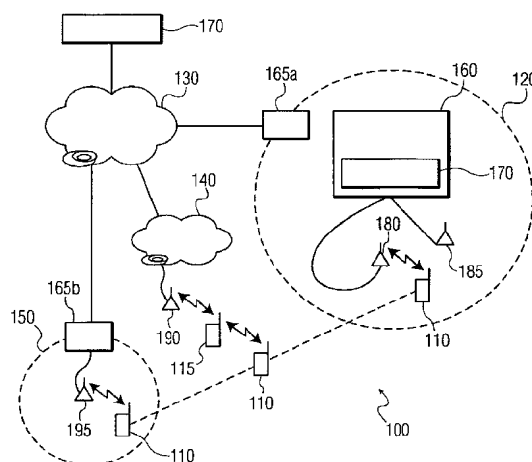
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/031488 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F** 95131 (US). MELPIGNANO, Diego [US/US]; 1109 McKay Drive, M/S-41SJ, San Jose, CA 95131 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2003/004323 (74) Common Representative: KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.; c/o LESTER, Shannon, 1109 McKay Drive, M/S-41SJ, San Jose, CA 95131 (US).
- (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003) (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/415,703 2 October 2002 (02.10.2002) US
60/468,923 7 May 2003 (07.05.2003) US
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- (72) Inventors; and (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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(54) Title: SMART CONNECTION MANAGEMENT OF PORTABLE DEVICES



(57) Abstract: Smart connection management of a portable device (110) may be achieved by storing a customizable profile (245) within the portable device (110) in order to select among a plurality of available connections in accordance with user preferences. The profile (245) may be configured to store configuration parameters (243) for each of the network connection types (e.g., Ethernet, WWAN, WLAN, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and GPRS) supported by the portable device (110) and user definable selection criteria (247) for selecting between the plurality of network connection types. When the portable device (110) is activated, a connection detector (270) within the portable device (110) detects network connections that are available to the portable device (110). A connection manager (240), coupled to the profile (245) and the connection detector (270), then selects a particular one of the available connections based on the user definable selection criteria (247) and the connection type of each of available network connections, and activates the selected network connection using the stored configuration parameters (243) associated with the connection type of the selected network connection.

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**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GI, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:

27 May 2004

(15) Information about Correction:

see PCT Gazette No. 22/2004 of 27 May 2004, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.